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MEMOIR concerning the CHAGOS

and

ADJACENT ISLANDS.

by

Dalrymple.

K

L O N D O N:

Printed by GEORGE BIGG, 1786.

ADVERTISEMENT.

MY Motive for publishing this MEMOIR, is the Hope that it will fall into the hands of *Persons* in INDIA, who can add the necessary elucidations, on the subject, to enable me to compleat a *correct* CHART of these ISLANDS.

Although I am not satisfied with that by M. *D'Apres*, the Materials, at present in my possession, are not competent to make one so compleat as I wish: The intelligent Navigator will, from the following MEMOIR, perceive where my difficulties lye, and know what materials he can add to those in my possession.

Amongst the *Desiderata*, I must particularly mention the Journal of the *Rumbold* 1773, not only in this quarter but especially on the SAYA de MALHA; the *Abstract* of that *Journal*, received from Capt. Cumming, contains no *courses* on that BANK, and consequently the *Soundings* cannot be laid down.

Also the Journal of the *Swift*, in 1774, is particularly wanted.

A *Chart*, by Lieut. *Edward Harvey*, ascribes to Capt. *Simmons*, the *discovery* of several ISLANDS to the South Eastward of the MAHE' ISLANDS, in the *Southern-Passage*; as Capt. *Simmons*, now deceased, was an intelligent man and a draughtsman, his *Journal* would be an important acquisition.

Capt.

Capt. William Robinson, who commanded the *Success* 1776, will, I hope, be able to give compleatly, the *Success Bank* in Lat. $6^{\circ} 7' S$. The Works of His, sent home to The Company, confirm that character of ability, which common Report gives to Him.

I am indebted to Capt. *Larkins*, for a Memorandum by Capt. *William Richardson*, who says " he was *three* days in " working round *twelve* Islands in $5^{\circ} 20' S$. Variation " $2^{\circ} 25' W$. off the NE End of the *Bassos de Chagos*; " the Islands abound with *Coconuts* but *no* *Inhabitants*, and " he saw several long high barren *Reefs of Rocks*: he was " on the edge of the *Chagos* in 7 fath. next cast 60 $\perp$." No Longitude is mentioned: The Copy of this *Journal* would be a valuable acquisition. I am informed there are several persons of this name in *India*, and therefore I do not know whether the Person, in question, is *that* Capt. *Richardson*, to whom I am indebted for the *Journal* of the *Nonsuch* to China in 1782, and for many other valuable communications: I wish it may; as his liberality in communicating his Observations, for the information of the Publick, is equal to his intelligence and assiduity in making them.

28th Nov. 1785.

Dalrymple.

MEMOIR concerning the CHAGOS

and

ADJACENT ISLANDS.

M. *D'Aprés*, some time before his *death*, sent me the MS of a Chart, in which he had given a circumstantial Detail of these Islands and Banks, laid down from the French Voyages, as well as from the English Observations, which I had communicated to him: This Chart had been the subject of a correspondence between us, and the MS Chart, here mentioned, was the Result of *M. D'Aprés* investigation, from all the Materials in his possession, in which he had, with that liberality of mind for which he was eminently distinguished, canvassed every objection that had occurred to me: I also received from Him afterwards a proof of the Plate, though it was not published during his life.

Since that time some other Journals have come into my possession, and I have examined such of the *antient Journals* remaining at the India House, as are legible.

As there appeared to be some circumstances in *M. D'Aprés* Posthumous Chart necessary to be altered, I
B thought

thought it most eligible to construct a *new* CHART entirely; however, foreseeing that this would require a considerable time to execute; for that and other reasons, I thought it proper to publish M. D'Après Chart^a from his MS, having, to bring it to 3 inches to 1°, encreased the Scale a little.

Great confusion arises from the application of *different names* to the same *Islands*, and of the *same names* to *different Islands*: In the present MEMOIR I give the name, of the Original Journal or Chart in *Italick*; and in CAPITALS what is synonymous to it, in my Chart, but I have avoided in my Chart, ^b applying the *old names*, where there is a doubt if the *Islands* be what were antiently so named, and we have scarcely any thing more, from the *Portuguese*, than the *names* ^c in this *Tablasco*.

The

^a In the *Posthumous Supplement* to M. D'Après Neptune Oriental, there is a Memoir concerning the Chart, I have annexed a translation.

^b I have indeed adopted the name *Chagos* to the *principal Island*, not that I think *this name* was so applied by the *Portuguese*, but as *all these Islands* and *Banks* are, in general, named CHAGOS by English Navigators, I thought it better to apply the *name* to the *principal Island*, than to any other: though the *name* given to this *Island* in the English *early Voyages* is *Diego Gratiot*.

^c Attention to Names, where the Native Names have been preserved, frequently clears away errors of long standing: In most Charts, antient and modern

The Materials in my possession are of two kinds,
particular Plans, laid down by the Persons themselves, and
Tracks,

modern, an *Island*, named GAMA, is marked to the South of the MALDIVE's, in various Latitudes from 2° S to 4° S. This matter may be explained by comparing almost any of the *old Charts*, but particularly *Janson's* of the *Indian Ocean*, with the Chart of the MALDIVE's, published from a MS in the *collection* of the late Capt. *Francis Taylor*: In both *this* and *Janson*, GAMA is made one of the MALDIVE's, and to the Southward of the *Atollon Moloc* or *Molucques*; but the MS places GAMA in 2° N; and *Janson* erroneously extends the MALDIVE's far across the LINE into *South Latitude*: The *Modern Charts* have carried back the *Atollon Molucques* into *North Latitude*, but have left GAMA behind.

I do not know where the earliest Maps, of the Portuguese Discoveries, are to be found; The earliest in my possession to which a date is affixed, are published in *Thevet's Cosmographie* 1575. The Map published with their *first Voyage* 1504 is too general to be of use, in this discussion; and the Map, in the Edition of the *Novus Orbis* 1537, does not shew the *knowledge* of the *Portuguese*, but the *ignorance* of its *Author*; which is the more extraordinary, as the *Paris Edition*, 1532, (in possession of my Friend Lord *Mulgrave*) has a very curious Map, dated *July* 1531, perhaps this is the earliest Map extant, containing any similitude to the Eastern Countries. It, like the MS. hereafter mentioned, has none of the *Islands* in question, but it has not even the MALDIVE's.

Linshoten (of whose work the English Translation was published in 1598) went to *India* in 1583, so that his Maps are greatly posterior: It deserves examination whether the Map of *New Guinea &c.* is to be found in the *Original* or only in the *English Translation*: I have not been able to find it except in the *English Translation*, tho' I have examined several Copies, both *Dutch* and *French*, but I have not seen any *Foreign* Edition of so early date as the *English*.

I have

Tracks, taken from the Journals; I have thought it expedient to engrave seperately each Ships *Discoveries* and *Observations*, where a *Plan* has been made, whereby all the Materials will remain distinct.

The

I have a MS in my possession, belonging to Sir *Joseph Banks*, which, from *internal evidence*, is unquestionably *earlier* than *Thevet* 1575. In this MS, none of the *Islands* or *Banks*, here under discussion, are marked, but it contains the MALDIVES: and *Diego Garcia* or CHAGOS has a place in *Thevet*.

The very curious MS. here mentioned is painted on Parchment, with the Dauphin's Arms, it contains *much lost knowledge*; KERGUELEN'S LAND seems plainly denoted; The *East Coast* of NEW HOLLAND, as we name it, is expressed with some curious circumstances of correspondence to Captain Cook's MS. what he names

Bay of Inlets	is in the MS. called	Baye Perdue
Bay of Isles	• • •	R. de beaucoup d'isles.
Where the <i>Endeavour</i> struck		Coste dangereuse.

So that we may say with Solomon "There is nothing *new* under the Sun." I have in the hands of the Engraver part of this curious MS, which belonged to Lord Oxford's Collection, as I was informed by my much lamented Friend Dr. *Solander*, who gave it to Sir *Joseph Banks*. The correspondence above alluded to, shews, that where *Native Names* cannot be had, the fittest Names are *descriptive*, and not the nonsensical application of the *proper Names* of insignificant individuals to every Creek and Corner.

CHAGOS and ADJACENT ISLANDS.

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The *Plans* in my possession are the following,

Year	Vessels	from whom.
	<i>Chagos Islands</i> ^a supposed BOURDE' ISLANDS	pr. Van Keulen
1744	Elizabeth. <i>Peros Banhos</i> or ELIZABETH ISLANDS	ms. M.D'Aprés Collection
1747	Kerkwyk. <i>Pedro Banhos</i> { S ^o most EGMONT ISLANDS 2 next EAGLE ISLANDS N ^o most KERKWKYK ISLANDS }	pr. Van Keulen
1762	Cornish. CORNISH ISLAND ^b and BANK . . .	ms. Com. Watfon
1763	Pitt. CHAGOS ISLAND and adjacent <i>Bank</i> , and } <i>Six Islands</i> or EGMONT'S ISLANDS	ms. Capt. J. Jackson
1763	Speaker. <i>Bassos de Chagos</i> or SPEAKER'S BANK	ms. Hon. Tho. Howe
1763	Speaker. <i>Bassos de Chagos</i> or SPEAKER'S BANK	ms. Capt. Cooper. ^c
1770	Vert-galant. <i>Diego Garcia</i> or CHAGOS ISLAND . .	ms. M.D'Aprés Collection
1772	Eagle <i>Five Islands</i> ^d or EGMONT ISLANDS } N ^o 6. 7. 8. EAGLE ISLANDS 9. 10. 11. KERKWKYK ISLANDS }	ms. E. India House
1772	Terrible. <i>Islands</i> supposed ADY & LONDON'S BANK	ms. Lt. Skynner
1774	Drake. Part of CHAGOS ISLAND . . .	ms. { E India House Gov. Hornby
1775	Calcutta. <i>Calcuttas Track</i> through the KERKWKYK, } EAGLE & EGMONT ISLANDS	ms. { Capt. Thomson Lt. Skynner
1776	Salomon. BOURDE' and SALOMON ISLANDS . . .	ms. M. Bourdé

The

^a This Plan being *without Scale*, I have not engraved it.

^b I suspect *this* was not laid down on the Spot, for the *Extract* of the *Journal* in my possession says *Islands*, the Plan marks *one Island ONLY*, I have therefore not engraved it.

^c After I had engraved the former *Plan* of the SPEAKER'S BANK, a more circumstantial *Plan*, on the back page of an *old Wagoner*, was communicated to me by Captain *Cooper*, this I therefore engraved; the *Scale* was marked *English Miles*, I have however supposed *Nautic Miles* were meant: It is necessary to bear this in mind.

^d I think from the *number* of *these Islands*, THEY are most probably what The *Portuguese* named *Chagos*.

The *French Vessels*, whose *Tracks* are marked by M. D'Après in his *Chart* are the following:

1757	Favori
1757	Duc d'Orleans
1769	L'heure du Berger & Vert-galant
1771	L'heure du Berger & L'Etoile du Matin
1775	Cheval-Marin
1777	La Bouffonne

The English Journals I have consulted, besides the brief *Notes* in *Purchas*, of Sir James Lancaster 1601, and Sir Edward Michelbourne 1605, are the following: *

Year	Vessels	Commanders.
1699	London : :	George Mathew
1699	Hampshire . :	Francis Fisher
1700	Rising Eagle . :	Benj. Boucher
1700	Loyal Bliss . :	Robert Hudson
1703	Mary . :	Lyell
1712	Stringer . :	Isaac Pyke
1728	Francis . . :	John Lawson
1728	Grantham . . :	Tim. Field
1738	Duke of Cumberland	Ben. Braund
1741	London . . :	Math. Bootle
1745	Pelham . . :	William Wells
1749	Griffin . . :	Thomas Dethick
1759	Diligent C P. . :	Peter Macleshin

1760

* C. denotes *Country-Ships*, i. e. Merchant Ships employed by the *English* in INDIA. C C. The *Company's Cruizers*. C P. The *Company's Packets*; the Others are *Indiamen*.

CHAGOS and ADJACENT ISLANDS.

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Year	Vessels	Commanders
1760	Egmont . . .	Charles Mears
1763	Pitt . . .	Joseph Jackson
1763	Admiral Pocock C.	John Cleugh
1763	Speaker . . .	James Dewar
1772	Eagle C C. . .	John Moore
1772	Terrible C C. . .	William Augustus Skynner
1772	Swift C C. . .	Tho. Neal
1773	Rumbold C.	
1774	Drake C C. . .	Adam Sherif
1775	Salisbury . . .	Philip Bromfield
1775	Calcutta . . .	William Thomson
1780	Luconia C C. . .	James Patch
1780	Resolution . . .	Thomas Poynting

The want of connexion of these various Tracks leaves the *precise relative* position of many of the Islands doubtful. Had the Instructions, for examining this *Tablasco* by *close traverses*, given by the Court of Directors in 1772, been pursued; Our Knowledge would now have been compleat. At the same time, it is but fair to acknowledge, that experience seems to establish a fact, very different from the Idea I at that time entertained, viz. That *The S. E. winds*, in this quarter, *bring rain and bad weather*, and consequently makes This Examination a matter of more difficulty, as the *foul-weather* Season on the *Malabar Coast* is not the *fair* Season here. ^a

The

^a In 1772 I was applied to by Mr. *Purling*, then Chairman of The India Company, for my Sentiments of the proper measures to be pursued in this examination

The Difference of position in Longitude, inferred from Ships Reckonings, is not at all to be wondered at, but the discordancy of the *Lunar Observations* is very great.

	Longitude
Abbé Rochon places <i>Diego Garcia</i> , or CHAGOS ISLAND, by Observation of ☉ & ☽ a few hours before seeing the Island in . . .	E. fr. Greenwich . . . 70° 41'
Mr. William Stevens, some days before seeing CHAGOS ISLAND, by ☉ & ☽ . . .	. . . 73° 25'
Difference	2. 44

So great a difference, gave cause to infer that *These* were two different Islands in the same Latitude, but I think with M. D'Aprés, that it is clearly proved, by subsequent experience, there is only ONE ISLAND in this Latitude, which The English, in general, call CHAGOS and the French *Diego Garcia*.

By an *Eclipse* of the Moon, 23d November 1760, observed on board the *Egmont*, after they left EGMONT ISLANDS,

examination, which Sentiments were transmitted to BOMBAY.

In 1771 The *Eagle Snow*, Lieut. Lewis, was sent from Bombay to *Seychelles*; in the Voyage thither, no discoveries were made; I have received, from Governor Hornby, a Chart of this Vessell's Track, laid down by Lieut. Thomas; after leaving *Seychelles*, They discovered EAGLE Island, and BIRD Island; and returned to Bombay. I have formerly published some Notes of this Voyage, with their Plans.

The same year The *Drake* made a Voyage to the Southward, but they went directly to *Diego-Rais*, and the other French Islands, and thence to *Madagascar*.

In 1772, Before Thé Company's Instructions could have been received, the *Eagle*, the *Terrible* and the *Swift*, were sent on discovery of the CHAGOS, &c.

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ISLANDS, and before they saw EAGLE ISLANDS, the former are placed in $72^{\circ} 3' 15''$ E from Greenwich.^a

The

^a M. D'Après sent me the Time of a corresponding Observation of the End of the Eclipse at Paris

	h	m	s				
Eclipse at Paris	10.	15.	10				
				Long. fr. Paris.		Long. fr. Green ^{ch}	
by Egmont's Observation	14.	53.	0	b	m	s	
				4.	37.	50	or 69. 27. 30 + 2. 21. 15 = 71. 48. 45 E
+ for Islands					28.		28.

But M. D'Après assigns a different Longitude to the Islands

				69. 55. 30	72. 16. 45
				69. 7. 30	71. 28. 45
				0. 48. 0	0. 48. 0

By the Mem. de L'Acad. des Sciences 1760, it appears, The End of this Eclipse was not visible at Paris; but in the Mem. Etrangers, Vol. 6. The End of the Eclipse was observed at Rouen

	h	m	s				
at	10.	11.	5				
Rouen from Paris	0.	4.	59				
				Long. fr. Paris.	Long. fr. Green ^{ch}	Long. fr. Green ^{ch}	
Egmont's Observ ^m	14.	53.	0	b	m	s	
				4.	36.	56	= 69. 14. + 2. 21. 15 = 71. 35. 15
+ for Islands					28		28. 0
							72. 3. 15

Longitude assigned by M. D'Après

				69. 42. 0	0. 34. 30
				69. 7. 30	71. 28. 45

Correspondent Observation at Rouen places the Islands $34\frac{1}{2}$ farther East than the Longitude assigned by M. D'Après.

The Account of this Eclipse in the Mem. de L'Academie for 1760, is not distinct and accurate, viz.

	h	m	s				
P. 205. M. Cassini de Thury Beginning	7.	52.	26				
				fr. Paris.	fr. Green ^{ch}	fr. Green ^{ch}	
Egmont	12.	11.	0	b	m	s	
				4.	18.	34	= 64. 38. 30 B 60. 59. 45 = 67. 27. 45

206.				Middle	9.	1.	0
				Egmont	13.	32.	0
							4. 31. 0 = 67. 45. 0 M 70. 6. 15 70. 34. 15

221.	M. de Thury, at Royal Observ- vatory, was begun			7. 52. 0			
				Egmont	12.	11.	0

				at least	4. 19. 0	= 64. 45. 0 B 67. 6. 15 67. 34. 15	
222.				Middle	9.	1.	10
				Egmont	13.	32.	0
							4. 30. 50 = 67. 42. 30 M 70. 3. 45 70. 31. 45

D

Mem.

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II

	Capt. Thomson.	Mr. Nicholls.	Mr. Flexman.
1 st Soundings			72° 30' E. fr. London
1 st $\rightarrow$ 8½ fath. 72° 27' E. fr. Green ^{ch}		72° 27' E. fr. Green ^{ch}	72° 30'
	☉ & ☾	☾ & * A	
2 ^d $\rightarrow$ 16		72° 27' E. fr. Green ^{ch}	
		☾ & * A	
Passage between the two Islands			72° 8' E. fr. Green ^{ch}

The

Mr. Nicholls, Chief Mate's Journal,

- " 3^d Dec. 1775, At 8 PM $\rightarrow$ 8½ fath. by Observⁿ of ☾ & * Aldebaran
K. F.
" Longitude 72° 27' E. fr. Greenwich Current SW 1.2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour
" 4th . . . At 7 PM $\rightarrow$ 16 . . . Current SW 1.2
" By Observation of ☾ & * Aldebaran 72° 27' E. fr. Greenwich"

Qu. If *these* are *two* Observations, or only the
same entered *twice* by mistake.

Mr. Nicholls afterwards says,

- " The true Longitude which we observed while at $\rightarrow$ is 72° 27' E.
" and on the 5th he takes a departure from the *Bassos de Chagos*,
" allowing the West part of the Shoal in 72° 27' E. as by Obser-
" vation the 3^d. "

The Journals swarm with these perplexing contradictions!

I have two MS Plans of the Calcutta's Track on this *Bank*, one received from Capt. Thomson, the other, by Mr. Nicholls, received from Mr. Skynner: they differ considerably in Latitude, and also in the *Soundings*, though by the *Islands* they appear to be the same Plan; both differ essentially from the Journals: That, by Mr. Nicholls, differs from the Explanation annexed to it; The Explanation says, " $\rightarrow$, the Place where she $\rightarrow$ and made by Observⁿ of ☉ & ☾ 72° 30' E. fr. London," and again " $\rightarrow$ when came to
" in 8 fath. (by Plan 15) and lay till daylight, made by Celestial Observation
" 72° 8' E fr. London."

The *Eagle's Chart* makes this *Passage* from

EGMONT ISLANDS	0.8
added to	72.8
	72.16.0

EGMONT ISLANDS by $\odot$ Eclipse 72. 3.45

difference 12.15

The *Calcutta's Chart* makes this *Passage* from

EGMONT ISLANDS about	0.13
added to	72. 8
	72.21.0
EGMONT ISLANDS	72. 3.45

difference 17.15

but, the *Calcutta's* Latitude of EGMONT ISLANDS exceeding the truth, the difference will therefore not be so great.

The Memorandum of the *Eagle's Voyage* makes the *Passage* and EGMONT Islands in the same Meridien

EGMONT ISLANDS	72.8.0
	72.3.45

difference 0.4.15

The

The *relative position* of EGMONT ISLANDS, and CHAGOS ISLAND, is very differently represented;

1605	Sir Edward Michelbourne, from 15th to 19th June, going Eastward from <i>Pedro Banhos</i> or EGMONT ISLANDS, to <i>Diego Gratijsa</i> or CHAGOS ISLAND.	}	0 1. 40
1771	L'Etoile du Matin ^a		} by M. D'Aprés Chart.
1777	La Bouffonne		
			Mean. 1. 27. 30
Longit. of EGMONT ISLANDS.			72. 3. 45
Gives Longitude of CHAGOS ISLAND.			73. 31. 15

but the detail M. D'Aprés has given of the *last track*, is not exactly correspondent with the *track* laid down in His Chart, and gives only about 1° E, which will be nearly the *Mean of all*; for the Ships going *Westward* make *less*, viz.

1763	Pitt	0. 45
1774	Drake	0. 47
Mean		0. 46
Long. EGMONT ISLANDS		72. 3. 45 gives Long. of CHAGOS I. 72. 49. 45
The Mean of the whole about		1. 5
		72. 3. 45 D° . D° 73. 8. 45

Comparison of Longit. of Chagos, inferred from the Eclipse observed by Egmont, with the Observations of Mr. Stevens and Abbé Rochon.		Major Stevens. Abbé Rochon.	
{	By mean of all	- 0. 16. 15	+ 2. 27. 45
	By Ships going Eastward	+ 0. 6. 15	+ 2. 50. 15
	By Ships going Westward	- 0. 35. 15	+ 2. 8. 45

According to Abbe Rochon's Longitude, The Island *Diego-Garcia* or CHAGOS would be 1° 22' 45" to the *Westward* of EGMONT ISLANDS, instead of 1° 5' to the *Eastward*,

^a Viscount Grenier's Chart assigns quite a different track to L'Etoile du Matin 1771.

ward, which results from the *Mean* of the several Estimations of those who have seen both: Although this difference is so considerable, it is certainly the same *Island*, which the French call *Diego Garcia*, and the English CHAGOS: The comparison of M. De la Fontaine's Plan, with that made by the *Drake* 1774, makes this obvious, for there can be no question that *These Plans* are of the *same Island*; and M. De la Fontaine was in Company with Abbé Rochon, though *his Plan* of *Diego Garcia* was made afterwards.

M. D'Aprés gives another conclusive testimony; The *Cheval-Marin* 1775, had *Soundings* on the SPEAKER'S BANK,^a and fell in with the same *Islands* seen by the *Griffin* to the SW of THAT BANK: continuing their course to the *South*, they expected to fall in with CHAGOS ISLAND, but they did not get sight thereof, although they sailed *West* 80 Leagues in *Its parallel*; which, as M. D'Aprés observes, is a proof that CHAGOS and *Diego Garcia* are the *same Island*; for otherwise missing the *one*, they must have found the *other*, had there been *two Islands* in this Latitude.

Although it is, I think, past doubt the SPEAKER'S BANK, 1763, is the same passed over by the *Griffin*, 1749, and ought, therefore, properly to be named the GRIFFIN'S BANK, yet the *first name* having been adopted, I continue it, to prevent confusion, notwithstanding the kind of anticipation it produces in the *Griffin's Voyage*.

Besides

^a The Longitude whereof, by Captain Robert Scott, is 73° 2' E from Greenwich by © & C.

Besides the *Cheval-Marin* who saw the GRIFFIN'S ISLANDS in 1775; They were also seen by the *Swift* 1774, but I have only the *track* of this *Voyage* without any *Journal*: I have no doubt what the *Diligent* saw, in 1759 were these *Islands*, this Vessel also saw the *Breakers*, seen by the *Griffin*, to the *Eastward* of them: but it appears doubtful, if the *Islands* visited by the *Swift* in 1772, *ten* in number, forming a *Basin* open to the S W, were also the same *Islands*, and the *other cluster* to the *Westward*, the SALOMON ISLANDS; or if those visited by the *Swift* were the SALOMON ISLANDS, and the *other cluster* to the *Westward* the ELIZABETH ISLANDS: if they visited the GRIFFIN ISLANDS, their estimation of the *distance* to the SALOMON ISLANDS is greater than the comparison of the *Salomon* and *Griffin's Tracks* will admit. ^a

The Authorities for the EAGLE and KERKWKYK ISLANDS, which M. D'Après calls *Three Brothers*, and *Vankeulen* names *Pedro Banhos*, are

Kerkwyk	1747
Egmont .	1760
Eagle . .	1772
Calcutta .	1775
Bouffonne	1777

not however that these Ships *exactly* agree.

I have

^a I think the *Sketch*, given by *Van Keulen* of the *Chagos*, refers to the the *BOURDE' ISLANDS*, but that *Sketch* has *no Scale*; the *Mem.* in it, and in his *Nautical Instructions* are not distinct: the latter Notes were in the Ship *Ham*, 1708, but I conclude the *Sketch* was *not* of the same ship: It appears the *Bank*, out of sight of *Land*, on which they had *Soundings* was the *SPEAKERS BANK*, and the *two Islands*, seen to the S S W of IT, *two* of the GRIFFIN ISLANDS.

I have from my Friend Capt. Clement's, some Mem. of the *Eagle's Voyage* in 1772, different from the *Chart* of the *Eagle's Track*, which I have engraved from *that* at the India-House; The *Journal* of this Vessel was lent to me at MADRASS, in 1776, by the late Commodore John Moore^a, who commanded it, but the copy then made of it, has not been brought to England with my papers. The Mem. from Capt. Clements describes the *Islands* by *Numbers*.

The EGMONT ISLANDS are N^o 1 to N^o 5.

N^o 6. is the *next Island* to the Northward.

N^o 7. is a *small Island* to the S W of

N^o 8.

N^o 9. 10. 11. are *three small Islands* close together.

The *Chart* at the India-House marks the EGMONT ISLANDS as *six* in number; The Mem. says expressly five.^b Sir Edward Michelbourne 1605, Egmont 1760, Rumbold 1773, Drake 1774, and Luconia 1780, call them also *five Islands*.

The

^a Com. Moore mentioned to me a circumstance which may merit attention on other occasions: although they found *fresh water* ashore in a kind of *Lake* or *Pond*, when it was brought aboard it was brackish; this happening repeatedly, was attributed to carelessness in letting the Sea-water get to the Casks; at length, however, it was found that the *fresh-water* floated on the *Surface* of the *Pond*, and that at a greater depth the water was salt: They therefore *skimmed* the *cream*, as it were, *off the Pond*, and got very good fresh water.

^b I have since received an Anonymous Journal from Lieut. Mc. Cluer, which says, there are *six* in number.

The *Duc d' Orleans* 1757, and *Pitt* 1763, call them *six Islands*. From the Memorandum of the *Eagle's* Voyage it appears they were *distinctly surveyed*, but it is reported the *Surveyor* was killed, in a Duel with the Captain, at the end of the Voyage, and that his papers could not be made out; * Commodore *Moore* promised to send me, from *Bombay*, his *rough Draught* of these *Islands*, but I have never received it, and he is now dead.

The anonymous Journal of the *Eagle's* Voyage, which I have received from Lieut. *M^r Cluer*, says, the Longitude of the *Middle Island* was determined by Observation of Eclipse of Jupiter's Satellites, but the Longitude, so determined, is not expressed.

Middle Island.

The Mem. received from Capt. *Clements* gives . . . 68.23

The Longitude assigned by the *Drake* 1774, is excessive,
in the contrary extreme, viz. E. EGMONT ISLAND } 75.21
0° 47' W. fr. CHAGOS in 76° 10'

Mean 71.52. 0" Difference . 6.58

Egmont by ☾ Eclipse 72. 3.45

Difference 0.11.45

The

* As it appears that Lieut. *William Robinson* was employed, together with Lieut. *Thomas* in this *Survey*, it may be hoped, we shall have this matter, and every thing concerning the *Eagle's* Voyage, cleared up.

The Track of the *Drake* 1774, by the Journal in my possession, is very perplexing, for it seems to contradict every inference, from the other Journals and Charts, to the *Northward* of the EGMONT ISLANDS: but amongst the many valuable MSS, which Governor Hornby has most obligingly communicated, from his inestimable Collection, there is one of the *Drake's Track*, placing them, before they again stood to the Eastward, in the Meridien of CHAGOS ISLAND; in which case they would appear never to have come on the CALCUTTA'S BANK, or within possible sight of the EAGLE or KERKWYK ISLANDS.

The *Stringer's* Bearings, at the different Stations, are incompatible with any possible supposition of current: and therefore Her Journal can give no assistance in describing the *Islands* she saw, which I conclude to be the ELIZABETH and BOURDE' ISLANDS.

The *Resolution* 1780, by Mr. *James Quick's* Observation of $\odot$ and ϵ at 8. 50 A M. 26th August, places the Eastermost of the *Rocks* and *Breakers*, seen at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 A M. 27th August, in $5^{\circ} 17' S$ Long. $72^{\circ} 40' E$ ^{b. m.} or $0^{\circ} 23'$ to the *Westward* of Captain *Robert Scott's* Longitude of the SPEAKER'S BANK, though by the *Griffin's* Track they must

* Mr. *Quick's* Journal says, by mistake, $71^{\circ} 38'$. but the following day, he says, Long. ϵ $72^{\circ} 20' E$. Long. fr. Chagos $0^{\circ} 20' W$. The Context, as well as the Captain's Journal, confirms this.

must be nearly in the same Meridien; or rather 5' to the *Eastward* of the *SPEAKER'S BANK*.

The *London* 1741, having unexpectedly seen the *Rocks* under them, may have been in *Soundings* long before; but, by the Journal, it does not appear that they *sounded* till they saw the *bottom*.

One Journal refers to the *Wagoner* for saying the *Foul Ground* of the *Chagos* extends to 8° S. Latitude, but I can find no mention made, at all, of the *Chagos*, in the *Wagoner*, except in the Table of Latitudes.

Chevalier *Grenier* has supposed, that The *LONDON'S BANKS*, and the *Islands ADY* and *CANDY*, are only parts of the *Chagos*, and that there are no such *Islands* as *ADY* and *CANDY*.

Although Objections arise to this supposition, I find by the Journal, at the India House, of Captain *Kirwan*, then an *Officer* in the *London*, that he places the *Islands CANDY* in 5° 31' S. instead of 5° 49' S. as Captain *Bootle's* Journal lays them down. Captain *Bootle* gives the Lat. O 6° 1' S, and his Course from the *Islands* S 14° E 19'. which would place them in 5° 42' $\frac{1}{2}$ S. instead of 5° 49' S. the same day Captain *Kirwan's* Journal gives the Latitude 5° 51' S. or 10' different from C. *Bootle*. The *Log-Book* contains no *Latitudes*; and these two are the only Journals. This produces a new perplexity, and gives some countenance to Chevalier *Grenier's* Supposition, by raising a question, whether

whether ADY of the *Favori*, be not BOURDE' ISLANDS, as it is *possible*, though *barely possible*, the *Favori* might have passed the BOURDE' ISLANDS without seeing the SALOMON ISLANDS: however, I am not convinced that Chevalier Grenier's supposition is well founded, and therefore shall not expunge ADY and CANDY, though I shall follow Captain Kirwan's Journal of the *London*.

Under what Meridien to place ADY and CANDY, is a matter for which we have no precise *data*, and scarce even materials for a combination: the *Variation* will afford little help; however, the *Tracks* of the *Pelham* and some other Ships, who saw CHAGOS ISLAND, determine, *negatively*, that they cannot be in a *less Longitude* than where they passed the *Latitude* of these *Islands*.

The *Terrible*, 1772, is the only *English* Vessel which has seen ADY, but they saw none other of the *Islands*; and the *London*, 1741, only saw CANDY. I have *two Plans* of the *Terrible's* *Islands* and *Soundings*, somewhat different, one by Lieut. *Skynner*, who commanded the Vessel; but *both Plans* differ from his Journal, which he was so obliging to communicate to me.

I shall

I shall conclude this MEMOIR with a very intelligent Paper of *Instructions*, by Lieut. *John M'Cluer*, concerning the *Southern Passage*.

It is scarcely necessary to inform any one, in the smallest degree acquainted with the Navigation of the Indian Seas, that the SOUTHERN PASSAGE is effected, by taking the advantage of the *contrary Monsoons*, which blow, at the same time, on different sides of the EQUATOR.

From *Bombay*, to the *Red Sea* and *Persia*, This *Passage*, during the S W Monsoon, has been used from time immemorial; and, in 1697, The *Sceptre*, going it, fell in with the *Islands* and *Shoals* of *Pedro Banhos* in about $5^{\circ} 55'$ S. about 3° to the Eastward of the Coast of AFRICA.

It is reported, however, This *Passage*, from the Coast of *Choromandel*, was first practised, in 1745, by Mr. *Roberts*; but whether from *Bengal*, *Madrafs*, or *Bombay*, the principle is the same on which the *Passage* is made; and consequently Lieut. *M'Cluer's* Observations are generally applicable. It may however be proper to observe, that, in all probability, in the *returning Passage*, when the N E Monsoon prevails in North Latitude, and the Currents set strong to the Westward, round CEYLON, the *short Track* will be found preferable to the *long*; for it is not likely that the N W winds will extend with equal certainty and steadiness into $8 \& 9^{\circ}$ S. Latitude, as into $4^{\circ} \& 5^{\circ}$ S.

Lieutenant John McCluer's Observations concerning the
SOUTHERN PASSAGE.

"The *Southern Passage* is so frequented, that a Man, paying the least attention, cannot err. I have overlooked many [Journal] Books and find very little difference. There are but *Two Tracks*; The *Long One*, and The *Short*.

"The *Long*, is from 8° to 9° S^o Latitude, which ought to be made in August, and run across in that Latitude, 'till you make 5° Variation, or 9° Westing from BOMBAY; then haul short round, crossing The *LINE* in the same *Meridien Distance*, being then about *mid-channel*, the wind will be strong and steady, while, if you border on the *Islands*, the wind will be faint and variable.

"As for the *Short Track*, it may be made in June and July, from 4° to 5° S, but still the Westing must be run down, before you can venture near the *Line* Northward; having got into 5° or $5^{\circ} \frac{1}{2}$ Variation, the direct Course
may

may be shaped either for The COAST of ARABIA or BOMBAY.

“ When our Ships lose their Passage up the [*Malabar*] Coast late in May, or early in June, they seldom go beyond 5° Variation, and make the rout within five weeks, as may be seen in the Abstract of the Passage made by the *Intrepid Snow*, when they were only sent off the Reef of BOMBAY, to cruize for Sir Richard Bickerton's Fleet, but the violent Westerly squalls drove them to the Southward of the Port, that they could never get into their Station, which obliged them to go round about the *Short Rout*.

“ Many Seamen look upon this *Track* to be the best, still if August is any way advanced, The *Long Rout* is the certain Passage: for, in the latter part of the S W Monsoon, The S E Trade draw back more Southerly,

“ By perusing the *Drake's Track*, you'll see that we could not get the *fresh South Easters* in the *Short Rout*, whereas, in the *Eagle*, by going into the 8° $\frac{1}{2}$ S *Track*, made sure of a quick and agreeable Passage, not having
the

MEMOIR of a CHART

of

The Islands and Dangers

to the

N. E. of MADAGASCAR,

Between 4° & 8° S. Lat. & 68° & $75'$ E Long. from Paris,

By M. D'Après.

Translated from the French by Dalrymple.

BY the examination, which I have made of the *Tracks* of several Vessels, and of Journals which have been sent me, since the publication of the *Neptune Oriental*, I have found that the *Island Chagos* and *Diego Garcia* are one and the same *Island*, and that the mistake proceeded from the *Observation* made there in 1769, compared with that made on board the *Pitt* in 1763. It therefore became necessary, to lay down a new *Chart* of the *Islands and Dangers*, which make part of the *Archipelago* to the N. E. of MADAGASCAR.

The *position* of the *six Islands* has served for the fundamental construction of this *Chart*; Their *Longitude* was determined by an *Eclipse* of α , observed aboard the *Egmont*, the 22d November, 1760, being 10 leagues to the *West* of their *Meridien*, of this there was a correspondent observation at Paris, according to which these *Islands* are in $69^{\circ} 7' 30''$ E. and in $6^{\circ} 34'$ S. Lat. On board the same Vessel, they saw at $\odot$ set other *Islands* to the N E, which

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several

several Vessels have fallen in with, and which are in this Chart named *Three Brothers*.

In 1771, The *Packets*, *L'heure de Berger* and *L'Etoile du Matin*, made the *Six Islands*, as well as part of the *Three Brothers*; the Course they steered from sight of them to that of *Diego Garcia*, determines the position of this last Island, which is confirmed by the track, almost direct, of *La Buffonne* in 1777. This Packet, being abreast the S^o Point of the Southmost of the *Three Brothers*, observed the Lat. 6° 19' S. Having made her Course S S E 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ leagues, they descryed the *Six Islands* in 6° 34' S; Having continued their Course S S E to 7° 20' S. Lat. they stood E 6 or 7 leagues; then saw the Land which they estimated at 7 leagues distance; at Noon they set S^o Point of *Diego Garcia* E, and the N^o Point N E b N 3° E, about 5 leagues distant: They stood N and N b E to get to the Northward of the Island, and fetch the Bay, where they $\rightarrow$.

In 1775, The *Calcutta*, after having got Soundings, fell in with the *Three Brothers*, in the same Latitude as the foregoing Vessels; The Longitude observed, in sight of these Islands, by $\odot$ and α is 33' to the West of that determined by the Eclipse of α on 22d November, 1760.

In 1747, The *Kerkwyk* descryed the same Islands.

It appears by the Latitude observed in the *Grantham*, in 1728, that the Islands which they saw to the W and S W, are

are the *Three Brothers*, and, that standing to the Northward, they fell in with a *Shoal* in $5^{\circ} 48' S.$

In the *Eagle* (1772) they saw the *Six Islands*, also

In 1757, aboard the *Duc de Orleans*, by the description found in the Journal of this Vessel, there is no doubt that they are the *same Islands* which the *Egmont*, *L'heure du Berger*, *L'Etoile du Matin*, and *La Buffonne* fell in with.

In 1763, The *Pitt* fell in with the *Six Islands*, and *Diego Garcia* or *Chagos*, although the Longitude of this *Island*, in the *Chart*, is not the same inferred, aboard this ship, from Observation of $\odot$ and ϵ , it differs however only $0^{\circ} 46'$ to the West; the difference of that resulting from the Observation made in 1769, aboard *L'heure du Berger*, is more considerable, being $1^{\circ} 50'$ to the East. The Longitude, assigned in this *Chart* to *Diego Garcia*, appears the more probable, 1st, because it was determined by the *tracks*, almost direct, of two Vessels, from the *Six Islands* to this *Island*; 2dly, In 1749, The *Griffin* having made *Diego Garcia*, and stood N, saw to the Westward, in Latitude $5^{\circ} 15' S$ some *Islands* (of which more hereafter) and continuing her Course to the N^o got Soundings on the *Speaker's Bank*. Now, by the construction of this *Chart*, the *Speaker's Bank* is in $70^{\circ} 25' E.$ from *Paris*, and the Long. observed by $\odot$ & ϵ aboard the *Speaker*, upon this *Bank*, places it in $70^{\circ} 37' E.$ The difference $12'$, is too inconsiderable to leave any doubt concerning the *Positions* given, as well

to the *Six Islands*, as to *Diego Garcia* and the *Speaker's Bank*.

In 1775, *Le Cheval-marin*, after having *Soundings* on the *Speaker's Bank*, fell in with the same *Islands* found by the *Griffin* to the S W of the *Speaker's Bank*: Continuing the Course to the S^o they expected to fall in with *Chagos*: but they did not see this *Island*; it is to be presumed, that, when in its Latitude, they were farther to the Westward than they reckoned themselves, which prevented their seeing it. They directed their course to the West, to find *Diego Garcia*; they run on the same parallel 80 leagues, without falling in with any land: this proves evidently that *Diego Garcia* and *Chagos* are only one and the same *Island*; for missing *Chagos*, they must have found *Diego Garcia*, if there had been really two *Islands* in this parallel.

In 1776, The *Salomon*, making an East Course in 5° 6' S Lat. fell in with the *Islands Bourdé* and *Salomon*, so named from the *Captain* and *Vessel*: they were set with exactitude. From the Station whence the *Bearings* were taken, having gone 12 leagues E N E, he found himself on the South Edge of the *Speaker's Bank*, in 4° 55' S^o Lat. from whence he continued an East Course without descrying any Land. These *Islands* which the *Salomon* found in 5° 6' S^o Lat. are the same fallen in with, to the S W of the *Speaker's Bank*, by the *Griffin* and *Le Cheval-Marin*.

The

The *Islands Pedro Banhos* are placed in this *Chart* conformably to the *track* of the *Elizabeth* in 1744, in the Longitude, by their reckoning, when in sight of these *Islands*, which may be the continuation of the little *Archipelago* of the *Bourde* and *Salomon Islands*.

The Latitude observed, in sight of the *Islands*, which the *Admiral Pocock* fell in with hereabout, in 1763, and the detail found in that Ship's Journal, afford a presumption that it was *Pedro Banhos* they descryed.

The *same* of the *Island* seen in the *Cornish* 1762, which is probably the *S^omost* of these *Islands*.

The *Packets*, *L'heure du Berger* and *Le Vert Galant* in 1769, and the *Pelham* in 1745, also fell in with *Diego Garcia*, but nothing can from their *tracks* be inferred as to the position of this *Island*.

In 1757, the Boat *Le Favori* descryed the *Islands Adu* to the NNW; a little time after, saw the *Islands Candu* to the SSE. ^a The Captain, solicitous to visit the *Islands Adu*, sent an Officer with 8 men in the Boat for this purpose; He was constrained, by the *Currents* and the *Winds*, to leave them and to continue his Voyage for *India*. The Officer landed at the *Islands Adu*, and staid there three months, during which time, he was employed in the means of

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^a Vide P. 31, for an Extract of this Journal, from Chevalier Grenier's Memoir. *D*

extricating himself, and crew, from their disagreeable situation.

In the Account he gives of his stay upon these *Islands*, he observes, that they are 12 in number, ^a surrounded with reefs, and that they make a circle of 6 or 7 leagues circumference, in the middle of which is found a *Bank*, almost square, of $\frac{1}{2}$ a league in circuit.

In 1741, The *London* also fell in with the *Islands Candu* in $74^{\circ} 10'$ E. Long. from Paris by Account. It is in this Longitude that they are placed in the *Chart*: they may be farther *Eastward*, but certainly they cannot be further to the *West*, for if that was the case, The *Favori* must have fallen in, either with the *Six Islands*, The *Bassos de Chagos*, or *Diego Garcia*.

The *Tracks* of the *Stringer* 1712, and the *Terrible* (1772), cannot be ascertained but with faint probability. ^b

Extract

^a From the Number, *twelve*, it is probable these were the *Islands* seen by Capt. *Richardson* in $5^{\circ} 20'$ S

^b M. *D'Après* had not the *Journals* of these *Vessels*, which are in my possession. *D*

Extract from M. Le Chevalier Grenier's MEMOIR, P. 30.

ISLANDS of ADU.

From the first Voyages to *India*, I have never heard any Person saw the *Islands ADU* but Mr. *Moreau*, Captain in The Company's Service. Here is an Extract of his Journal in sight of *this Island*.

" From 25th to 26th March, 1757.

Saw white Gulls ^a all the afternoon; At 6 PM saw
 " the Ground under us, *no Land* in sight; immediately
 " sounded, had *rocky ground*, sounded again for the depth,
 " and had 19 fathoms *coral* and *rotten shells*. At 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ h.
 " *coarse red coral*. At 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ h. same depth, *no rocks*, a
 " *small red fish*, all alive, came up with the lead, with *small*
 " *shrimps* and *shells*, and *very bright white sand*. At 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ h.
 " 15 faths. *rocks*; immediately 21 same bottom. At 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ h.
 " 47 *very fine white sand*. The Wind N W, close upon
 " a wind on the larboard tack. At 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ h. 49 same
 " ground; At 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ h. 45 same ground. At 6 A M saw
 " the *Land* in the N N W 6 or 7 leagues distant.
 " At 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ h. saw *another Island* SSE. At 8 h. 75 ^a
 " Having the *Westmost Island* N b W, consequently we
 " have gone on this *Bank* 8 $\frac{1}{3}$ Leagues, which, all cor-
 " rections

^a Goulettes blanches.

“ rections made, will be N^o At 8 A M fine weather
“ and very smooth water, hoisted out the Boat. At
“ Noon Lat. O 5° 5' S. Lat. A 5° 11' S. Long. 76° 15' E.

The S^omost Island . NWbW

The N^o most . . NbE 5° E. 1½ League from the
nearest shoar. *

* M. Grenier adds, P. 31, that he has annexed to the end of his *Memair*
an Extract of M. Moreau's Journal. But this is not in my Copy, 4^e Brest 1770,
and this intimation is omitted in the Edition of 1772.